

## Research Team

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## Resources

### Web sites:

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/education/nomenclature.asp>

### Other resources:

**SDV Classification System**

**SDVCS Clinical Tool**



### MIRECC

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<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19>

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Current as of December 2010

## Suicide Classification System

**COMIRB # 09-0641**



## CURRENT RESEARCH: Suicide & Self-Directed Violence Classification System

Veterans Integrated Service  
Network (VISN) 19 Mental Illness  
Research, Education, and Clinical  
Center (MIRECC)

Website: <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19>

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## Study Description and Background

The purpose of this study is to further develop and adapt the VISN 19 MIRECC SDVCS and Clinical Tool to enhance feasibility for implementation in diverse VA treatment settings, and to assess its impact on healthcare system processes pertaining to the assessment and management of suicide risk.

Suicide and suicide attempts are significant issues for military, Veterans Affairs, and civilian healthcare systems. The lack of uniform terms related to self-directed violence (SDV) has inhibited epidemiological surveillance efforts, limited the generalizability of empirical studies of suicide and non-lethal forms of SDV, and complicated the implementation of evidence-based assessment and treatment strategies for individuals with suicidal thoughts and/or behaviors.

Mental Health Leadership and Professionals were invited to complete a formalized training, pre- and post-training testing, focus groups, and quality improvement surveys.

The psychometric tool was developed by a literature review, item development, expert panel focus group, and pilot testing of the measure by MIRECC clinicians and Veteran participants.

## Hypotheses, Study Aims, and Short-term Goals

The primary aims of this study are to:

- 1) Implement the SDVCS & Clinical Tool in two clinical settings.
- 2) Evaluate organizational- & provider-level factors associated with implementation (barriers and facilitators)
- 3) Analyze programmatic impact of the SDVCS & Clinical Tool on suicide risk assessment and clinical decision making
- 4) Develop a psychometric tool to assist in accurately identifying SDV thoughts & behaviors



## Progress Report

Recruitment is currently closed and a manuscript is in press.

## Long-term Goals: Putting Research into Practice

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) SDV Classification System (SDVCS) in April of 2010. Initial implementation efforts suggest that the SDVCS and CT are acceptable and useful to mental health providers. Previous research and preliminary data suggest that additional efforts will be required to facilitate widespread implementation.

Researchers at the VISN 19 MIRECC are currently in the process of pursuing a QUERI Phase II Service Directed Project (SDP), as a means of increasing understanding regarding how to enhance uptake of the SDVCS.

